



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 19, 1999

H.R. 999

Beaches Environmental Assessment, Cleanup, and Health Act of 1999

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on April 15, 1999*

SUMMARY

H.R. 999 would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require states to adopt water quality criteria for coastal recreation waters consistent with those developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the purpose of protecting human health in coastal recreation waters (beaches). The bill would authorize EPA to provide grants to states of \$30 million annually over the 2000-2004 period to implement programs to monitor the quality of coastal waters and to notify the public of any conditions where beach water does not meet the established standards. In addition, the legislation would require EPA to issue new water quality criteria for recreational coastal areas based on studies of potential human health risks in these areas, make available to the public a database of the water quality at coastal recreational areas, and report to the Congress on the efforts under this program.

Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 999 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 999 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	3	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	3	0	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	34	34	34	34	34
Estimated Outlays	0	19	28	34	34	34
Spending Under H.R. 999						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	3	34	34	34	34	34
Estimated Outlays	3	19	28	34	34	34

a. The 1999 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted before the start of fiscal year 2000 and that the full amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns of similar EPA programs.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$30 million a year for grants to states to implement programs to monitor and report on beach water quality. Based on information from EPA, CBO estimates that the agency would incur additional costs of about \$4 million annually over the 2000-2004 period to study health hazards in coastal recreational waters, establish new criteria for monitoring water quality for these waters, develop a national database on pollution of beaches, and report to the Congress on the effectiveness of this program.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 999 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. While the bill would require states to establish acceptable water quality standards for coastal areas within three and a half years, if states choose not to establish these standards, the EPA would do it for them. The bill would authorize \$30 million annually from 2000 through 2004 for states and local governments to implement eligible monitoring and notification programs. If they choose not to implement these programs, the EPA would be directed to use remaining money authorized by this bill to provide those programs for them. Any costs incurred by state and local governments to implement these programs would be voluntary and conditions of receiving grant assistance.

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